

Montana State Employers' Council
AWARD WINNERS 2013

OUTSTANDING LOCAL JSEC COMMITTEE

Nominees: Billings JSEC; Glendive JSEC; Flathead JSEC; Helena JSEC

WINNER: Flathead JSEC

Flathead JSEC was the first Chapter in the State to obtain their 501c3 non-profit status, and developed a boiler plate for all the other JSEC's around the State to duplicate and streamline their process in the application. Membership has consistently been at full capacity for membership for the last two years, with over an 85% attendance rate at monthly meetings.

Membership represents a very diverse group of businesses; City, County and State Government, banking and finance, manufacturing, insurance, employment agencies, construction, automotive, retail, non-profit, public utilities, healthcare, legal, and tourism. Networking with these 25 top employers has given the Flathead Job Service an opportunity to present some of their programs to these employers such as BEAR, IWT Training, and On-The-Job Training. And the JSEC gives to the community – one example: The JSEC purchased three computers for employers to check out to create their own job descriptions and Employment Handbooks.

Flathead JSEC rolled out their first annual Employer of Choice award this year and had over 15 entries where employees nominated their Employers as an exceptional place to work. Their Employers of Choice winners and JSEC were spotlighted and recognized in the local Business Journal for promoting a healthy, growing work environment.

OUTSTANDING LOCAL JSEC COORDINATOR

Nominees: Sandy Hamlin, Helena JSEC; Kari Martell, Kootenai JSEC, Libby

WINNER: Kari Martell, Libby

Over the years, Kari has played a huge role in helping the Kootenai Job Service define itself as a valuable hub in the community economic wheel, and the Kootenai JSEC under Kari's direction is what keeps this wheel turning. Kari dreams big! She has a vision for success and prosperity utilizing creative connections to overcome obstacles. She is respected and trusted in the business community and is sought after for her calm, professional and supportive demeanor. Kari continually uses her creativity and initiative to bring valuable opportunities to the business community in the form of trainings, workshops, seminars and job fairs. Kari thrives on helping others and in making connections in the community that enhance her effectiveness

SPARK PLUG AWARD

Nominees: Joetta Percy, Glendive

WINNER: Joetta Percy, Glendive JSEC Member

From the beginning of her membership, the Glendive JSEC has been able to count on Joetta to be there and do what needs to be done. She came to her first meeting on the edge of her seat and ready to learn-- curious about and interested in JSEC, Job Service, and how they fit into and serve not only businesses, but also the community. She began immediately to draw conclusions about her role on the Committee and the benefits to her employer as well as other businesses of being an active JSEC member. Joetta attended 100% of the regular monthly meetings, in addition to attending a variety of subcommittee meetings throughout the year.

Joetta has been and continues to be a very valuable asset to the Glendive Job Service Employer Committee. Joetta exemplifies a "Spark Plug," and we believe she certainly deserves statewide recognition for all she has contributed to the success of the JSEC organization.

OUTSTANDING LOCAL JOB SERVICE MANAGER

Nominees: Bill Nelson, Kalispell Job Service Manager

WINNER: Bill Nelson, Kalispell Job Service Manager

Bill has made the Job Service such a great place to work and that's reflected in how staff treats employers, job seekers and each other.

Bill fully supports JSEC, attends the meetings, makes all employers feel welcome and researches and delivers 'the managers minute' at each meeting with updates on labor law and unemployment statistics. Bill also participates in 'tackle a problem' questions from employers during the JSEC business meeting. He builds and fosters strong partnerships with all JSEC employers and the Flathead Valley Community College, and encourages staff to make community involvement a part of their work life and organize and participate in events throughout the year.

OUTSTANDING LOCAL JSEC CHAIR

Nominees: Jen Kobza, Billings JSEC; Cathy Wood, Helena JSEC; Marcy Roberts, Flathead JSEC; Whitney Cantlon, Lake County JSEC

WINNER: Jen Kobza, Billings JSEC Chair

Jennifer is about fostering a positive image in the community in relation to the Billings JSEC and providing educational opportunities to area business while encouraging the use of the Job Service as a valuable tool for employers. Jennifer consistently rises to the occasion to share her time and talents when called upon. Her calm and clear vision frequently guides the groups she aligns with, including JSEC, to find workable solutions which move our community and our state forward. We are richer for having Jennifer Kobza in our community both as a business representative, a partner with JSEC and a friend to the community.

EMPLOYER OF CHOICE - More than 25 Employees

Nominees: LC Staffing, Kalispell; A Plus Health Care – Kalispell; St. Luke Community Health Care – Lake County; Lakeland Feed & Supply – Missoula; First Security Bank – Bozeman; Anderson ZurMuehlen – Helena; Cottonwood Inn – Glasgow.

WINNER: First Security Bank, Bozeman

First Security Bank offers multiple insurance options, to include dental, a vision plan, an Employee Assistance Program, a Mommy tax program and short term disability that is paid by the bank. They have life insurance, long term disability insurance, paid leave and a retirement plan. The Bank has an amazing work environment that includes a great break room with healthy snacks, a workout room and shower, and a lending library. We provide monetary tenure awards to people who have worked at the bank in 5 year intervals, and provide a multitude of training and education opportunities that are paid for by First Security Bank.

First Security Bank is a leader in the industry providing opportunities for teleworking, flexible work schedules, innovative banking products, and strive to accommodate the workplace and personal life balance. The average tenure of the employees is 13 years. First Security Bank is also unmatched in the community in their efforts to support community nonprofit organizations.

EMPLOYER OF CHOICE – Under 25 Employees

Nominees: Thomas Tornow – Kalispell; Country Foods, Lake County; Ecology Project Int. – Missoula; Lewistown Honda; Wingate by Wyndham, Helena; Eugene's Pizza, Glasgow

WINNER: Ecology Project International, Missoula

EPI is committed to providing a dynamic, welcoming, family-friendly work environment to all employees. Over 50% of our employees are women, and they are an Equal Opportunity Employer. EPI was recognized as one of the Top 30 Places to Work in 2012 by Outside Magazine.

In addition to vacation and sick/family leave, EPI employees are also eligible for discounted gym memberships, free bus passes, and health insurance and a retirement fund. After seven

years with EPI, employees are eligible for a paid 3-month sabbatical to explore their own pursuits.

EPI has an annual professional development fund that all employees can access for workshops, conferences, and classes that are applicable to their work. They also hold twice-yearly staff retreats involving lessons and workshops in awesome locations around the state. EPI is supported by their community of Missoula, and they work each day to help their employees be active contributors to what makes Missoula great.
